

Qadhafi raps Brazil for arms seizure

TRIPOLI (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi Wednesday accused the Brazilian government of acting irrationally over a seizure on the return of a Libyan arms shipment for Nicaragua intercepted in Brazil during a refuelling stop. "We regret to say that the Brazilian government is involved in the issue in such an irrational way... we simply ask that the planes be allowed to go or be sent back to Libya," he told a press conference here in answer to a question. Earlier this month, Col. Qadhafi had accused the Brazilian government of interfering in Libya's internal affairs and of backing "imperialism" against the Nicaraguan people by detaining four Libyan planes since April 16. In a statement issued this week, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry rejected a demand by Col. Qadhafi for the return of the planes and the 52 tonnes of arms and explosives they were carrying.

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جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الراي"

Arafat flies to Tunis via S. Arabia

DAMASCUS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has returned via Saudi Arabia to his headquarters in Tunis after a visit to Damascus. PLO officials said Tuesday night. They had no information on whether Mr. Arafat had talks with Saudi officials during his stopover. He arrived in Tunis on Monday night, they said. Mr. Arafat, based in Tunis since most PLO fighters evacuated Beirut following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last year, had been in Damascus for more than a week. During his stay he met President Hafez Al Assad for the first time in seven months, apparently restoring relations which had deteriorated sharply since the Israeli invasion.

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Israeli injured in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli soldier was injured Tuesday when light weapons fire was aimed at an Israeli patrol south of the Lebanese Shouf mountain town of 'Ain Zuhra, a military spokesman said. Israeli soldiers fired back and searched the area, he added.

Bullets hit diplomat's car in Shouf

BEIRUT (R) — A French diplomat escaped unhurt when his car was hit by rifle fire while he was driving in the troubled Shouf mountains above Beirut Tuesday, diplomatic sources said Wednesday. The sources said that seven bullets hit the car of Andre Boissarie, an assistant to the military attaché. He was driving through an area where there has been factional fighting between rightists and leftists, the sources said.

NATO to hold war exercises

NAPLES, Italy (R) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) will hold major naval and air exercises in the Mediterranean from May 16 to 27, allied forces commander in Southern Europe William Crowe said Wednesday.

Jayewardene to visit Egypt, Pakistan

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene will make state visits to Egypt and Pakistan about the middle of next month, a cabinet spokesman said Wednesday. He said the dates would be announced later.

Turkey arrests 12 Iranian Communists

ANKARA (R) — Turkish police have arrested 12 Iranians, all believed to be members of the Iranian Tudeh (Communist) Party, in connection with their alleged links with secret Armenian organisations, an interior ministry official said Wednesday.

Iraq says 'enemy naval target' sunk

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Wednesday its navy and airforce destroyed "an enemy naval target" to the south of the Iranian oil-field of Nowruz at the head of the Gulf. A military communique said the unspecified target was "set on fire at 1340 hours (0940 GMT) and columns of thick smoke were seen billowing from it." Iraq said two days ago its navy and airforce destroyed three unidentified "enemy naval targets" which had entered an area that it had declared a naval exclusion zone.

Seveso trials postponed again

MONZA, Italy (R) — A lawyers' strike Wednesday led to a further delay in the trial of five senior company officials charged with partial responsibility for the 1976 chemical plant disaster at Seveso in northern Italy. It was the second postponement of the trial which was adjourned on its opening day, April 18, after about 200 people, including the mayor of Seveso, declared they were seeking compensation for the disaster from the Swiss company Givaudan.

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More Soviet families leave Beirut for home

BEIRUT (R) — Twenty-three wives and children of Soviet diplomats were reported to have left Beirut Wednesday, bringing to 110 the number of Soviet dependents who have quit Lebanon this week in a move that has fuelled fears of a renewed crisis.

Airport sources said 12 children and 13 women from diplomatic families were among passengers aboard a scheduled Aeroflot flight to Moscow.

On Monday, 87 wives and children left for Moscow on a special flight from Beirut.

Soviet officials have said the children were going home early for summer holidays. But their protestations that the move was routine did little to stop anxious Lebanese linking it with fears of renewed fighting in their battered country.

Concern that Syrian and Israeli forces could resume hostilities has risen as efforts to secure a removal of foreign forces from Lebanon bogged down.

State-run Beirut Radio reported that explosions had been heard Wednesday in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley, where Israeli and Syrian troops face each other.

The radio said the reason for the explosions was not known.

It quoted people who had just come from the Bekaa Valley as saying there was tension in the area.

Beirut Radio reported Tuesday that Syrian forces had fired at an Israeli reconnaissance plane in eastern Lebanon, but an Israeli military spokesman denied such an incident had taken place.

Tension between Syria and Israel has increased since Damascus refused to accept a U.S.-backed proposal for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

In Beirut, two explosions rocked central and southern areas of the city late Tuesday night, wounding at least six people.

Beirut Radio said one of them, occurred in the southern suburb of Al Abiad, where many poor people have taken over abandoned houses and where past explosions have been the result of tenancy disputes.

The second blast took place outside a newly opened jeans shop

just off the bustling Hamra shopping street where most of the capital's cinemas and restaurants are located.

There did not appear to be any connection between the explosions and the Syrian-Israeli tension or with fighting between rival militias in and around Beirut for the past week.

Following a comment by Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam that he considered an Israeli attack on his country very likely, state-run Damascus Radio said Wednesday that "any Israeli aggression against Syria would mean an unlimited war."

It also made clear that Syrian forces were prepared to fight in Lebanon if necessary.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said that tension in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, where Syrian and Israeli forces were facing each other, posed a persistent threat of renewed hostilities.

But he avoided describing the area as nearing flashpoint, saying the situation had existed for some time.

The spokesman said Syria had been moving more troops and material into Lebanon, but added there were no signs it was preparing an attack.

Syria: U.S. responsible for any attack

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria kept up a barrage of criticism of Israel and the United States Wednesday as tension was reported high between Syrian and Israeli forces in neighbouring Lebanon.

State-run Damascus Radio said the United States must take full responsibility for the consequences of any Israeli aggression.

The government newspaper Tishrin repeated Syria's view that a draft accord on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon posed a grave threat to peace in the region.

The agreement worked out by

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz earlier this month is contingent upon a parallel withdrawal of Syrian and Palestinian forces from Lebanon.

Mr. Shultz said after talks with President Hafez Al Assad here last Saturday that Syria's direct approval of the draft accord meant it was now up to Lebanon to work out a separate deal with its Arab neighbour.

There has been little sign, however, that Damascus is prepared to negotiate. Syrian officials and media have condemned a provision of the draft accord allowing Israel to keep a few soldiers in southern Lebanon, and have consistently demanded an unconditional Israeli withdrawal.

Damascus Radio said Wednesday: "Syria wants peace and pursues it. It is not fond of war...the American peace is rejected because it means giving gains to the invaders."

"...The United States assumes full responsibility for the consequences that might result from Israeli aggression against Syria."

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Gulf states to begin fighting oil slick

KUWAIT (R) — Gulf states will start next Wednesday to fight a giant slick caused by oil pouring from shattered Iranian wells in the Gulf war zone, the official Kuwait news agency reported Wednesday.

The head of a regional environmental organisation, which is coordinating efforts to combat the Gulf's worst pollution ever, was quoted as saying that technicians would begin skimming off the oil after aerial surveys.

Up to 8,000 barrels a day of thick crude oil have been pouring from the wells in Iran's Nowruz field, spreading patches of pollution over an estimated 8,000 square miles of the Gulf.

Political differences between warring Iran and Iraq have hampered efforts to reach agreement on capping the wells.

However, ministers from Gulf coastal states agreed in April to fight the pollution. An action plan was drawn up in Bahrain this week.

The plan involves the use of helicopters to guide a special boat to the slick to suck up oil south of the war zone, using resources of all Gulf states.

The only action against the slick so far has been to set up protective booms at water intakes of desalination plants and power stations, and to clear beaches of debris.

Iraq offered a limited cease-fire in the slick area, but Iran insisted that Baghdad simply give an assurance that Iraqi forces would not attack workmen capping the wells.

A combination of wind and tide has kept most of the oil on the Iranian side of the Gulf. Some experts believe it could be another month before the slick hits Arabian Peninsula states.

Saudi Arabia and its allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council have held two emergency meetings of foreign ministers in an attempt to mediate between Tehran and Baghdad. A further meeting is planned in Saudi Arabia on Sunday.

ICRC accuses Iran, Iraq of executing war captives

GENEVA (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Wednesday accused warring Iran and Iraq of executing prisoners and the indiscriminate bombardment of civilians.

It said it had protested to both countries about "grave and repeated violations of international humanitarian law" during the Gulf war which broke out in September 1980.

According to a report sent to the two capitals, these violations included "executions of captive soldiers, the abandonment of enemy wounded on the battlefield and the indiscriminate bombardment of towns and villages."

The report said: "These executions were sometimes the act of individuals involving a few soldiers fallen into enemy hands. They have sometimes been systematic actions against entire enemy units."

The ICRC said action was urgently required as confidential representations had failed to halt the violations.

The violations were all the more serious in Iran to whom the ICRC

had been refused access since May 1982. The Iranian authorities claim they are holding between 45,000 and 50,000 Iraqis.

The ICRC said Iraqi forces had indiscriminately and systematically bombed towns and villages, causing casualties among civilians and destroying their homes, while Iraqi towns had also been the target of indiscriminate shelling by Iran.

It said such acts totally disregarded international humanitarian law in armed conflicts, founded on the distinction between civilians and armed forces.

In Iran, the ICRC could only register some 30,000 prisoners, "leaving 15,000 to 20,000 families in the agony of uncertainty, which is precisely what the imperative provisions of the (Geneva) conventions are designed to avoid," the report said.

It appealed to all signatory states of the Geneva conventions to "make every effort to see that international humanitarian law is applied and these violations affecting tens of thousands of persons cease."

Tokyo resumes Tanaka trial

TOKYO (R) — The six-year-old trial of former Japanese Prime Minister Kakei Tanaka, accused of accepting an American bribe while he was in office, resumed Wednesday with defence lawyers insisting he is innocent.

The outcome of the trial, which began in January 1977, has crucial implications for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party since Mr. Tanaka leads the largest party faction and is the principal backer of current Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Mr. Tanaka is charged with accepting a 500 million yen (\$2 million) bribe from the U.S. Lockheed Aircraft Corporation while prime minister in the early 1970's.

The prosecution alleges the bribe was for him to use his influence to secure orders for Lockheed TriStar planes from Japan's All Nippon Airways.

The trial resumes after a three-month break before which the prosecution demanded a sentence of five years in prison and a fine equal to the amount of the alleged bribe.

The court is due to rule on the charges around October.

West Bank epidemic remains a mystery

UNITED NATIONS (R) — World Health Organisation (WHO) experts failed to establish any specific cause for the sudden illnesses that struck hundreds of Palestinians living on the Israeli-occupied West Bank last March, the agency reported Wednesday.

But an "environmental agent could have provoked at least some cases in the first outbreak," the report said.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar submitted the six-page document to the Security Council, which agreed on April 4 that he should arrange for an independent inquiry into the matter.

Arab states accused Israel of spreading toxins in the affected area. Israel flatly denied the charge.

Halfdan Mahler, director general of the WHO, prepared the report issued Wednesday after a team from the agency visited each of the three West Bank districts in which ailments were said to have occurred.

He told of three successive episodes in the period from March 21 through April 4, most of those affected having been schoolgirls.

Headaches, dizziness, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, tremors and general weakness were among the symptoms experienced by the affected persons, Dr. Mahler said, adding that these sometimes persisted for two or three weeks.

Investigators looked into the possibility that leaching pits from school toilets were responsible, he said, but these were no different in the affected schools than in those that were not affected by the outbreaks.

The report concluded that WHO had been unable to indicate any specific cause or causes of what it termed "this ill-defined health emergency."

"However," it said, "the initial medical records and interviews with cases in the first outbreak and with local health and other authorities suggest that an environmental agent could have provoked at least some cases in the first outbreak." The agent was not identified.

Hu pays respects to Tito

BELGRADE (R) — Chinese Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang laid a wreath of 88 red roses at the tomb of the late President Tito Wednesday on the second day of his five-day official visit to Yugoslavia.

The wreath laid at the simple white marble tomb bore the inscription "To the Great Marxist Josip Broz Tito."

On Tuesday at an official banquet, Mr. Hu recalled the decade before 1977 when Peking and Belgrade were involved in a bitter ideological war and when Chinese leaders had called President Tito a Marxist renegade and a traitor to communism.

He said this was based on a misunderstanding of the past and described the late Yugoslav leader as a man as "hard as steel" and a great Marxist.

French students, police clash in Cannes

CANNES, France (R) — About 400 French medical students clashed violently with police Wednesday after they charged into the venue of the Cannes International Film Festival throwing smokebombs and firecrackers.

The protest was one of a series of demonstrations across the country by students who object to the government's planned reforms of higher education and the health service.

Eyewitnesses said at least one policeman and one demonstrator were hurt. The students, some holding crowd barriers, charged the new festival centre near the old port and were resisted inside and on the steps by police in riot gear.

On the other side of the harbour, students burnt heaps of car-

Shultz to brief Reagan on Lebanon plan

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz flew home Wednesday to brief President Reagan on the embattled accord he negotiated to get foreign troops out of Lebanon.

Mr. Shultz was returning from an Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) meeting in Paris and went directly to the White House to see the president.

He spent two days in France after his 11-day Middle East shuttle that ended with a troop removal agreement between Israel and Lebanon which, if it holds, will be the administration's first real foreign policy success.

The agreement on withdrawing some 80,000 Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian fighters from Lebanon was under challenge on several fronts, especially from Syria, which could scuttle it by refusing to remove its 40,000 to 50,000 troops.

Damascus has kept up steady criticism of the accord, calling it unacceptable "in its present form." But Mr. Shultz says the Syrians have not closed the door to a pullout, which Israel has made a condition for withdrawing its 25,000 troops.

Syria and Israel have accused each other of preparing for a possible military confrontation in Lebanon, but Washington Tuesday played down the risk of renewed warfare.

Mr. Shultz Tuesday called on Moscow to urge its Syrian ally to support the peace effort in Lebanon, which the Israeli cabinet approved in principle last Friday by a vote of 17-2.

"I would call upon the Soviet Union to... get on the side of peace in Lebanon," he told a Paris press conference, commenting on an attack by the Soviet news agency

TASS on the plan he negotiated. TASS said the plan would turn Lebanon into "a vassal" of the United States and Israel.

But Mr. Shultz said Tuesday, after meeting Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Paris, that "a wave of Arab opinion (is) developing that withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon is called for."

U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger was also in Paris, where he was due to meet Thursday his Saudi Arabian counterpart, Prince Sultan. Officials said Mr. Weinberger would seek Saudi help in persuading Syria to withdraw from Lebanon.

Israeli leaders, while expressing some reservations about the withdrawal accord, gave much of the credit to the low-key negotiating style used by Mr. Shultz. They said he had not attempted at any point to put pressure on Israel to agree.

Knesset attacks Lebanon plan

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government was attacked in the Knesset (parliament) Wednesday for failing to get better "security guarantees" in its negotiations on withdrawing from Lebanon.

Labour Party leader Shimon Peres led the opposition, saying it was doubtful that the agreement to withdraw from Lebanon, which Israel accepted last week, had improved the country's position.

Some right-wingers have also criticised the agreement, worked out by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. It was uncertain whether the plan will get a majority when the Knesset votes on it, probably next week.

Mr. Peres said many of the agreement's provisions were being hailed by the government as achievements, but actually existed before the invasion of Lebanon last June.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir opened the debate, saying the agreement paved the way for good future relations with Lebanon.

Mr. Shamir said he hoped the agreement would be signed in the next few days after Israel had received the clarifications it was seeking.

He repeated that a withdrawal of Israel's estimated 25,000-strong army was conditional on Syrian and remaining Palestinian forces also leaving. Syria has raised strong objections to the plan.

"We hope that Syria, too, despite the statements of provocation

and deception, will prefer the way of stability and will fulfil its commitment made a few times in the past to withdraw its forces from Lebanon..." Mr. Shamir said.

"If things develop differently and it becomes impossible to prevent a threat to Israel, then Israel will be free to act according to its interest."

Mr. Peres, whose party gave qualified support for last year's Lebanon invasion, noted that some cabinet ministers, including former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, shared his scepticism about the "security" arrangements.

He did not indicate whether the Labour opposition would vote against the agreement

Moscow awaits U.K. polls, says Thatcher

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Wednesday the Soviet Union was probably waiting for the outcome of next month's British general election before negotiating seriously on disarmament.

Moscow wanted to see whether the June 9 poll was won by the opposition Labour Party, which is committed to scrap all British and American nuclear weapons in Britain, she said in a radio interview.

The British leader spoke after the latest public opinion poll showed her Conservative Party had increased its lead over its nearest rival, Labour, to 15 percentage points since she called the election on Monday.

The poll, conducted by Market Opinion and Research Inter-

national (MORI) for the Daily Star newspaper, gave these percentages for the main parties' support:

Conservative 46, Labour 31, Liberal-Social Democratic alliance 21, others two.

Mrs. Thatcher, dubbed "the Iron Lady" by the Soviet Union for her attacks on communism, took what she said was a big, fundamental swipe at what she called Labour's one-sided disarmament policy.

The Soviet Union would not come forward with disarmament proposals at the Geneva talks on curbing medium-range nuclear weapons while there was an election in West Germany earlier this year and it was the same with the British election now.

Mitterrand to meet Reagan before Williamsburg summit

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand, at odds with Washington over a range of economic issues, will hold talks with President Reagan shortly before the summit of major Western nations opens later this month, it was announced Wednesday.

The meeting will take place on Mr. Mitterrand's arrival at Williamsburg, Virginia, on May 28, just before the start of the seven-nation summit, the Elysee Palace said.

U.S. preparations for the summit have been at the centre of a quarrel between France and the United States for the past month

and led to the Mitterrand administration boycotting a meeting of top finance and trade representatives in Paris Wednesday.

France says Washington is trying to bypass the traditional informal mechanism for preparing the summit in order to turn the meeting into an international organisation in its own right.

Mr. Reagan last month invited Mr. Mitterrand to meet him several days before the summit opening. U.S. officials said Mr. Mitterrand told the White House he could not come earlier in the week.

U.S. reopens Beirut mission

BEIRUT (R) — The United States reopened its consulate in Beirut Wednesday, 23 days after the U.S. embassy was blown up killing more than 60 people.

Among the first Lebanese inquirers were people looking for passports apparently lost in the blast.

Consul Diane Dillard reopened the consulate in an office building 200 metres along the seafloor from the shattered embassy building, still standing but with its central section collapsed.

The American personnel who escaped unhurt from the April 18 explosion have been working in various office blocks and apartments for the last three weeks but no formal consular work has been done.

Ambassador Robert Dillon, who survived the blast in which 17 Americans were killed, is working in the nearby British embassy.

About 50 Lebanese turned up Wednesday morning when the consulate reopened, most of them seeking visas to visit the U.S.

The process of sifting through the ruins of the old consulate office was still going on and it was not known how many passports were missing, U.S. officials said.

Peron plans to return to Argentina

MADRID (R) — Ex-President Maria Estela Peron is planning to return to Argentina where the armed forces that overthrew her have promised elections in October, Peronist sources said here Wednesday.

The sources told Reuters that Mrs. Peron, who has lived in exile in Spain for nearly two years, stated her intentions at a meeting in Madrid with Teresa de Palmas, head of a group campaigning for her return.

They said she told Ms. Palmas she would return to explain to the Argentine people the reasons why she was deposed in 1976 and what her position is today with regard to the national situation. She apparently set no date.

But Mrs. Peron added that she intended to stay above politics until the Peronist Party, founded by her late husband Juan Domingo Peron, had picked its presidential candidate.

She did not intend to give her blessing to any candidate and said "the people themselves must decide, the sources said."

FEATURES

Death squads behind Rio's murders

By Oliver Wates
Reuter

RIO DE JANEIRO — Hamilton Miranda Dos Santos and a friend were leaving a Rio de Janeiro bar one evening recently when they were seized and bundled into a waiting car by three armed men. The two young men were handcuffed, beaten with cudgels and driven to a deserted part of town. There the assailants pumped seven bullets into their victims, threw the bodies down a hillside and drove off.

The cold-blooded attack bore all the hallmarks of Rio's dreaded "death squads", which are widely held responsible for several thousand unexplained killings here and in Sao Paulo over the past 25 years.

Groups of off-duty policemen, operating at night, seek out people they suspect of being petty criminals, drag them from their beds, tie their hands behind their backs and riddle them with bullets. Though police chiefs deny the existence of the squads, the press and most Brazilians think otherwise. Since March 20 the killers seem to have been working overtime. More than 20 unexplained murders have been committed at night in the poor, crime-ridden suburbs of northern Rio.

Hamilton Miranda Dos Santos was lucky. Shot in the stomach and through the mouth, he somehow survived to tell the tale. His friend Helio Rodrigues, 24, was not so fortunate. A former criminal who served a four-year

prison sentence for bank robbery, he was hit by five bullets and died instantly.

The following day the body of Gilberto Gomes, a 39-year-old drug-trafficker, was found with 22 bullet-holes. This time there were suspects, according to the local press.

The same weekend a 50-year-old ex-convict and a 33-year-old concierge were gunned down, an unidentified young woman was found dead with five bullets in her head and stomach, and a man of about 30 was found riddled with bullets and with his fingertips cut off to avoid identification.

In all these cases police reported no clues as to the motives of the killers. Over the past year, the squads

have kept a relatively low profile. The recent surge of killings led one Rio newspaper, Ultima Hora, to conclude that the squads were stepping up their activities to challenge the new state governor, Leonel Brizola.

Brizola, one of Brazil's most prominent left-wingers, took office on March 15. During his election campaign Brizola repeatedly pledged to fight the death squads but aides say he has not yet drawn up any specific plans.

Brizola's concern to cut down the rate of unexplained murders is shared by the state's Civil Police Director-General, Innocencio Vasconcelos.

"We need more vigilance, tougher investigations. If we receive more funds, we can combat more crimes," he told Reuters.

He believes the killings stem from causes such as quarrels among drug-traffickers, disputes between gangs of car-thieves or bank-robbers, personal vendettas and crimes of passion.

"The death squad does not exist, it never did," Mauro Magalhães, director of Rio City Civil Police said. "In 30 years of policing I've never seen anything like groups of police going around exterminating people."

He said murders in the metropolitan area have fallen over the past two years and described it as a coincidence that the latest wave of violence began when Brizola took office.

In the first two months of 1981, 561 murders were reported compared with 466 in the same 1982 period. In January and February 1983 there were only 418, Magalhães said.

According to a crime reporter who wrote a book on the killings, death squads were formed as early as 1956. They became more prominent in the late 1960s when the killings were marked with a macabre flamboyance.

While many of the squads' targets are former convicts or petty criminals, others are clearly cases of mistaken identity or, as in the case of Hamilton Miranda, are with the intended victim when the squad strikes.

Despite government campaigns over the years to stop the killings, and the conviction of a few policemen, the violence has always resumed.

Time is running out for China's last steam engine

By Richard Pascoe
Reuter

DATONG, China — The last steam engine factory in China is still making more than 200 huge black locomotives a year for the country's overstretched railway system, but its days are numbered.

Production at the Datong Works, probably the biggest remaining in the world, reached a record 320 locomotives in 1980.

Its 8,000 workers made 230 engines last year, almost all of them the 3,300-horsepower Qianjin (progress) class that makes China's railways a paradise for foreign train spotters.

Factory officials said cuts in output were forced by the government's industrial retrenchment programme, which took investment away from heavy industry, and by competition from diesel and electric traction.

Datong's puffing black dragons will still be made for the next couple of years, they said, but the day will come when the factory will have to close or start making something else.

"In the long run steam engines will be got rid of. In Western countries you have already scrapped them," one official said.

Other officials said there were still steam locomotive works in the Soviet Union and South Africa but there was no factory in the world making as many engines as Datong.

In the West the only demand for steam engines was for surface work at coal mines, they said.

The big advantage of steam engines is that they burn coal, available in abundance in China. The locomotive works was sited at Datong in 1959 because it is in Shanxi province, China's main

coal-producing region, west of Peking.

Shanxi provides both fuel and demand for steam engines, since coal from the province must be transported by train throughout the country on a still-expanding rail network.

Massive coal trains hundreds of metres long can be seen lumbering up the gradients around Datong, often with one loco pulling in front and one pushing at the back.

Officials said that besides reducing demands for oil, in short supply in China, steam engines were cheaper to build, cost less to maintain and were generally more robust than diesel locomotives.

They are used mainly for hauling freight but can also be seen pulling passenger trains in some parts of China.

The Datong factory officials said the Progress class locomotive was of Chinese origin but workers said it was based on old Russian and Japanese technology.

China's other locomotive works in the industrial northeast has already switched to making diesel or electric engines.

To try to modernise its output, Datong experimented with a gas-turbine locomotive 15 years ago but it did not prove viable.

The problems of steam are considerable, though less so in a country where labour is cheap.

The factory's more modern versions have an automatic coal-stoking system from the tender.

Gao Huanting, director of the Finishing Shop, says a well-maintained Progress locomotive can pull a train weighing over 30,000 tonnes.

"They still have a future," he said. "We have plenty of coal. I think we'll have to make them for a few years yet."

Canadian ingenuity works wonders

By Paul Majendie
Reuter

OTTAWA — Canada's National Research Council scientists have produced impressive results from outer space to the ice-bound Arctic despite the comparatively modest funds allotted to them.

The council has an annual budget of \$320 million yet Canada still lags behind the United States, Japan and many West European countries in the amount of money it spends on research and development.

But recent examples highlight how the 1,000 scientists at the internationally-recognised council have proved that ingenuity, even if spread thinly across all fields of science, can work wonders.

The Canadian ski team, eager to develop the world's sleekest, most wind-resistant downhillers, turned to the council for help and found the perfect tuck position in a wind tunnel.

Transport officials, keen to combat hijackers, asked the scientific "think tank" to find out how bombs hidden in an airliner could be tracked down fast and accurately. They were presented with a bomb-sniffing device which speedily pinpoints explosives.

Council laboratories spokesman Kenneth Pulfer said: "Excellence is our job and we have a good international reputation. But you have to be careful where you put your money."

When asked to single out great council achievements, he is quick to mention Canadarm, the me-

chanical, remote-control arm used on U.S. space shuttle missions.

"We are also in the early stages of participating in plans for an American space station," he said.

Space technology has more down-to-earth applications. "A robot vision system — a computer that uses a camera at the end of an arm and allows it to grasp automatically — will also be applied to the automobile industry," Pulfer explained.

The council often has to turn its inventive eye to the day-to-day problems faced by a huge, sprawling country with one of the world's longest coastlines and harsh conditions in its northern wastelands.

Its scientists have helped to develop icebreakers to carve through Arctic seas in search of the

oil that could fulfil Canada's dream of energy self-sufficiency.

"We are also world leaders in the development of breakwaters," Pulfer said.

Scientists are working on new, cheaper ways of extracting oil from the tar sands of western Canada which could offer untold riches if the right technology is perfected.

Giant windmills are also being developed. "We are building a very large vertical axis wind turbine in Quebec which will generate four megawatts of electricity. The bigger they are, the more cost-effective they get," Pulfer said.

The council, founded in 1916, grew rapidly in World War II when advanced radar was developed in its laboratories. After

the war its Defence Research and Atomic Energy Departments split off into organisations of their own.

Today the council's 10 wind tunnels offer Canada's best facilities for testing planes, ships and even snow ploughs.

Pulfer says the most exciting area now is biotechnology. "We are putting most of our resources into it and expanding most rapidly," he said. "We are producing the know-how for developing human insulin. At present we get insulin from the pancreas of cattle. We hope to produce vats of human insulin."

"In biomedical engineering, ultrasound is being developed for improving the health of damaged heart muscles. We are ex-

perimenting with the use of ultrasound to increase the rate of recovery for heart victims.

"Tests are being done on animals now and it's showing great promise for the future. Ultrasound could be used before or after a heart attack. It starts things up, gets the blood flowing and the muscles strong and healthy again."

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THE NEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Decree confirms new ambassador

AMMAN (J.T.) — A royal decree has been issued accepting Lebanon's nomination of Mr. Samir Habiba as its new ambassador to Jordan, according to a report in Al Ra'i newspaper Wednesday. Mr. Habiba will succeed Mr. Marcel Namour who was appointed as ambassador to Jordan in 1978.

Kitm receives loan to build school

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cities and Villages Development Bank has approved a JD 40,000 for the town of Kitm in the Irbid Governorate. The loan will finance the construction of a primary school and an annex to a local girls school.

Loan to cover oil imports

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Government is to obtain a \$20 million from the Islamic Bank, according to a report in Al Ra'i newspaper Wednesday. The loan will be used to pay for the importation of crude oil.

Chemists hold equipment display

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Chemists Association opened Wednesday a four-day exhibition of chemical equipment at the University of Jordan. On display are apparatus for chemical analysis, testing blood samples, controlling environmental pollution as well as a spectrum photometer and other modern equipment supplied mostly by local companies and agents. The exhibition is designed to strengthen cooperation between the association and scientific institutions in Jordan.

Food related businesses invited to show

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry has circulated an invitation to food processing factories and businesses in Jordan offering the chance to participate in an Arab food products fair. The fair will be held in the United Arab Emirates in November.

Qudah opens charity bazaar

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa District Governor Salem Al Qudah Wednesday opened a charity bazaar at the Zarqa Sports Club. On display at the three-day bazaar are examples of needle work, traditional handicrafts, books, plants and flowers. The proceeds of the bazaar will go towards developing the social and community centres in the region.

Teaching aids exhibited

ZARQA (Petra) — Mayor of the town of Al Hashimieh, near Zarqa, Ayed Al Ziyad Wednesday opened an exhibition of Audio visual aids for use in schools at the Hashimieh Girls School. On show at the two-day display are paintings and literary works, national costumes and traditional handicrafts.

Hassan, Abdullah visit ancient Jordan display at U.S. Centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and His Highness Prince Abdullah, King Hussein's eldest son, Wednesday visited the American Centre on Jabal Amman and inspected the artifacts and stone tools on display in the exhibition entitled "Ancient Jordan: The Past Half-Million Years."

Speaking during the visit, Prince Hassan paid tribute to "the efforts being exerted to unearth our antiquities and discover

the ancient history of Jordan and the Near East. The discovery of such antiquities underlines the fact that this region had been the cradle of many world civilisations," Prince Hassan said.

The exhibition combines displays of stone tools and other items from the stone age with a series of maps, colour photographs and an artist's recreation of scenes from life in Jordan during the past 500,000 years.

Ibn Zaid opened the exhibition, which will last until May 23, Monday which has been prepared in cooperation with Yarmouk University, the Jordanian Department of Antiquities and the American Centre of Oriental Research in Amman.

Upon their arrival at the centre, Prince Hassan and Prince Abdullah were met by U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Richard Viets, who accompanied them around the exhibition.

ECWA adopts new resolutions to improve intra-member links

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan was among 31 countries attending a meeting of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) which ended in Baghdad Wednesday.

The commission adopted several resolutions which are designed to bolster cooperation among western Asian nations and to increase aid to developing nations in the region, according to ECWA's Secretary-General Dr. Mohammad Sa'id Al Attar.

He said that the ECWA meeting decided to refer a report on the social and economic con-

ditions of the Palestinian people to ECWA member states for further study before submitting their amendments to a special ECWA executive committee meeting before June 15. The final amended report will then be submitted to an international conference on Palestine which is due to be held in Paris in August.

A special committee comprising Jordan, the PLO, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon will meet in Baghdad in June to rephrase the final report on the Palestinian people.

The commission said that Israel's invasion of Lebanon, its continued drive to confiscate Arab land and the Zionists' arbitrary measures against the Arab population, as well as the Iraq-Iran war and Iran's rejection of all peace offers have adversely affected the development of the West Asian region and has led to serious drop in economic growth over the past years.

Jordan was represented at the ECWA meeting by a delegation led by Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday visited the Prime Minister's office and held discussions with Mudar Badran (centre), with Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al-Lawzi (left) in attendance (Petra photo)

Chinese firm gets Marka housing scheme contract

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Chinese construction company, the China Engineering Corporation has won a contract from the Urban Development Department (UDD) to build 391 housing units at Marka for low-income families, according to UDD Director Hisham Al Zagha.

The JD 1.483 million project, to be established on an area of 220 dunums, also entails the construction of two secondary schools and vocational colleges one for each sex, a health centre, a com-

munity centre, shopping areas, workshops and various other facilities.

A special government agency, the UDD was established in July 1980 to carry out housing projects

and meet the social needs of low-income families. It carries out work in cooperation with the World Bank, the Housing Bank, and various government departments in Jordan.

Marka is one of five other low-income areas of Amman that the UDD is developing. The houses, built by UDD, meet the minimum building standards, but combine this with low cost. Beneficiaries in the new areas are eligible for loans to extend and improve their new homes.

Iraq agrees to import more Jordanian goods

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani discussed with his Iraqi counterpart Hatem Abed here Wednesday economic cooperation between Jordan and Iraq and ways of increasing the volume of trade between them.

Following the meeting, Mr. Hourani announced that Iraq has agreed in principle to increase its imports of Jordanian products, and will, for this purpose, grant

import licences to Iraqi traders and corporations to import goods from Jordan in a further manifestation of strong and brotherly ties between the two countries.

During the meeting, Mr. Hourani expressed Jordan's keenness to maintain close ties with Iraq and Mr. Abed said Iraq takes pride in Jordan's strong backing for the Iraqi people in their current war against Iran.

The meeting was attended by aides from both sides.

Hassan visits Badran...

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday met Prime Minister Mudar Badran at the latter's office. The meeting was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi.

Later Prince Hassan called at the army headquarters and met the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker where they discussed subjects pertaining to the armed forces.

... and sees CAEU chief

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received at the Royal Court Wednesday afternoon Mr. Mahdi 'Obeldi, secretary-general of the Council of Arab Economic Unity who has just taken over the new post.

Abdullah, King Hussein's eldest son.

Later Prince Hassan received the President of the Jordanian Medical Association Hassan Khreis and delegates attending the third Jordanian Medical Conference in Amman Wednesday.

The conference, which was opened Tuesday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, also discussed other subjects which included ways of improving children's hospitals, blood pressure related diseases, the study of blood cells, cerebral palsy and liver inflammation.

Zhivkov visits Jordan fair stall

AMMAN (Petra) — Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov has visited the Jordanian stand at the International Consumer Goods Fair which opened at the Bulgarian city of Plovdiv Monday.

Jordan is displaying carpets, refrigerators, washing machines and pharmaceutical products. Also on display are samples of Jordanian phosphates and agricultural products along with products from the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company and the Jordan Fertiliser Company.

The wing also displays posters and maps that depict Jordan's archaeological and tourist sites.

Session focuses on war victims

AMMAN (Petra) — The treatment of Lebanese war victims was among the subjects taken up by the participants attending the third Jordanian Medical Conference in Amman Wednesday.

The conference, which was opened Tuesday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, also discussed other subjects which included ways of improving children's hospitals, blood pressure related diseases, the study of blood cells, cerebral palsy and liver inflammation.

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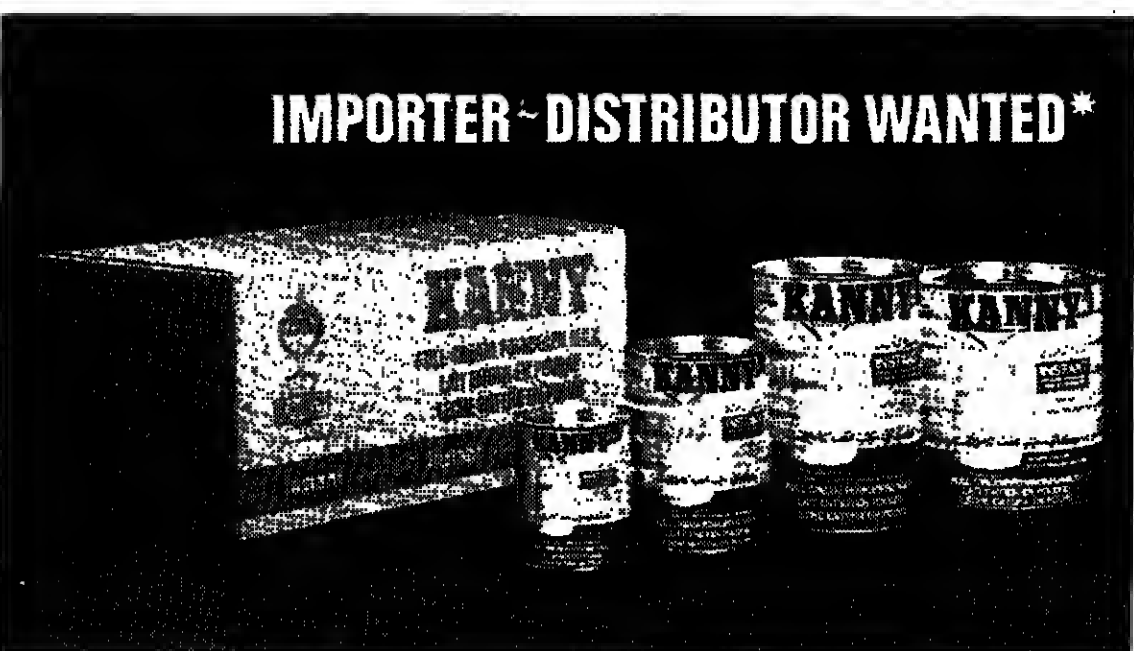
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Shultz plan runs into stalemate

By Harvey Morris
Reuter

LONDON — The stalemate over U.S.-sponsored efforts to clear Lebanon of foreign troops has effectively eclipsed the wider issue of a Middle East peace settlement.

Agreement on the withdrawal of some 75,000 Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces had been regarded as a prerequisite condition for a future bid to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The failure of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz so far to get area-wide agreement for his troop withdrawal plan therefore presents the Reagan administration

with a continuing barrier to the even more complex task of engineering a comprehensive regional settlement.

Shultz did his best to play up the positive aspects of a two-week Middle East shuttle which ended last weekend. He succeeded in persuading the Israelis and the Lebanese to accept his plan and said he would try to have it implemented despite Syria's objections.

Syrian rejection of the Shultz plan appears to have come as little surprise in the region. It nevertheless could be a death blow to the secretary of state's strategy.

Israel has said the withdrawal of its 25,000 troops is dependent on Syria pulling out its estimated 40,000 troops, based in the north and east of Lebanon.

The characteristic most commonly ascribed to Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad by Western diplomats is caution.

Assad has been careful to avoid full-scale war with Israel for the past decade. On this occasion, he appears to have decided that the ever-present dangers of a conflict were outweighed by the military gains he alleged were being granted to Israel under the Shultz plan.

These included a continuing

Israeli role in the southern Lebanese border region, an area out of bounds to Syrian forces even before last year's Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The Shultz mission was aimed, at least in part, at defusing the inevitable tension arising from the close proximity of Israeli and Syrian forces on Lebanese soil.

But analysts also saw its symbolic value as an indication of Washington's commitment to pushing ahead with the overall peace process during what remains of President Reagan's term.

The Arab states had been looking for proof that Washington

was prepared to bring pressure on Israel to make concessions.

They would have preferred a tougher U.S. stand on halting Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank. In the absence of action on that front, they were looking to Washington to produce Israeli concessions on the troop withdrawal issue.

As far as Syria is concerned, such concessions have not been forthcoming and it has yet to be seen how much influential Arab states as Saudi Arabia will react if the plan fails.

Some analysts have speculated that the price sought by Israel for cooperating on troop withdrawal

might be a U.S. commitment not to press on with plans for Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank.

A pullout of all foreign forces, of which Shultz is still optimistic, would be a major foreign policy achievement for the administration as Reagan ponders whether to stand for a further presidential term.

It would nevertheless still leave open the question of how Reagan intends to proceed with his plan for Palestinian autonomy in association with Jordan, which is no further forward than when he launched it eight months ago.

Trust's last gasps...

HAVE YOU heard the latest from the United States Congress? The House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee has passed an amendment to a foreign aid bill requiring the United States to cut off military and economic aid to Turkey by 1986 if Turkey does not withdraw from Cyprus by then. The amendment still has to pass the entire House of Representatives' vote and also be endorsed by the Senate before it becomes law. But the fact that this kind of approach is being applied by some American lawmakers strikes us as significant. More significant, in our view, is the discrepancy between American politicians' attitude to countries such as Turkey and their attitude to Israel. It is noteworthy that the rationale given for the amendment by its sponsor, Congressman Gus "Liberty Is My Middle Name" Yatron, is that it would be wrong for the United States to provide substantial amounts of aid to countries that occupy other people's lands. And, of course, that is a very logical and freedom-loving rationale which we support enthusiastically. However, we find it odd, at the least, that American politicians are offended by the military occupations of some of their allies and friends, while they disregard the military occupations of Israel. In all such cases, the United States is in the uncomfortable position of funding and acquiescing in the military occupations. So why do some American political leaders deem it appropriate to threaten Turkey with a cutoff in military and economic aid, but the same American leaders increase military and economic aid to Israel?

This is typical of the many contradictions that seem to define American policy in the Middle East. It does no good to dismiss these merely as unavoidable aberrations of the American political system. This is the sort of political dynamic that helps keep the Middle East in a state of conflict, and that ultimately leaves Americans and American institutions in the area in a vulnerable and dangerous situation. This is the America that we are asked to trust? What has America done recently to win our trust? We can cite many things it has done to make good faith between Arabs and Americans a rare commodity. The House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee vote this week is a good reminder of the extent of the obstacles in the way of an American-Arab dialogue based on trust.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Doctors symbolise fortitude

HIS Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday, opened the third Jordanian Medical Conference so as to express his recognition of the efforts that the Jordanian physicians and specialists are making towards improving health services. Prince Hassan's speech, in which he paid tribute to the doctors from the occupied West Bank, will no doubt boost the steadfastness of these doctors and strengthen their determination to offer continuing humanitarian services to the people under Israeli rule.

In his speech, Prince Hassan referred to these doctors' work as a good example of nationalistic fortitude in the face of Israel's repressive measures. These doctors are clinging to their land while continuously giving the outside world a true picture of Israeli malpractices against the Arab population especially in relation to the deteriorating health conditions under Israeli occupation rule. The doctors' humanitarian work has now assumed a nationalistic role which characterises the continuous struggle against oppression and occupation. The doctors' endeavours illustrate the strong cohesion between the Jordanians and Palestinians and embodies the continued joint struggle against oppression.

Al Dustour: Arabs must back Lebanon

BEFORE Shultz's arrival on the scene, the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations went round in a vicious circle because of Israel's persistent hegemonistic demands and because Lebanon continued to resist all Israeli bids to subjugate Lebanon and its people.

We called for American participation in the negotiations because only the U.S. can exercise any form of pressure on Israel. Now it has become clear that Shultz has brought about an agreement which, if implemented, would achieve an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

What Lebanon needs at present is full Arab support to help it rid itself from occupation. Lebanon has insisted that it would accept no agreement that would in any way enslave it from the Arab World, and therefore the Arab states should now adopt unified and strong action to help Lebanon regain its sovereignty and enable the Lebanese people to maintain their unity. Lebanon should not be left alone to face the Israeli occupiers since the liberation of Lebanon is a national objective. The Arabs must help end the Lebanese crisis so that they can devote their time and efforts towards settling the Palestine problem and block Israel's attempts to carry out its settlement policy on occupied Arab land.

Sawt Al Shaab: Summit can tackle dilemma

THE Lebanese question is now entering a new and delicate phase following Lebanon's acceptance of the new American-engineered agreement, and Syria's rejection of it. The contradiction between the two countries points to a conflict of interests, and demonstrates a difference in aims and style between Moscow, which refuses all American solutions and Washington which insists on handling the region's issues single-handedly. Lebanon, which has long been subjected to sufferings, is forced to accept the agreement because it sees in it a step towards regaining national sovereignty.

Syria, on the other hand, sees in the agreement another measure to restrict its room for manoeuvre and one that ignores the Syrian interests in Lebanon. Syria, which calls for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, is unable to achieve this demand and has offered no alternative to the agreement. On the contrary, Syria is quite willing to sacrifice Lebanon's national interests to safeguard its own, despite the fact that such a move might perpetuate Israel's occupation of Lebanon. This dilemma, which Lebanon now faces, ought to be tackled by Arab leaders at a summit meeting where all views and interests can be considered, and where plans to safeguard pan-Arab national interests would be drawn up.



Tension exists despite end of Soviet pipeline dispute

By John Rogers
Reuter

LONDON — The Soviet Siberian gas pipeline, target of U.S. sanctions which sparked a bitter row with Western Europe last year, is near completion, and the furor has faded.

But six months after President Reagan ended action against West German, British, French and Italian suppliers of equipment for the pipeline, healing a five-month rift with his European allies, tensions over trade with Moscow still simmer.

Engineers have almost finished laying the Soviet section of the controversial pipeline, according to the government daily Izvestia. It reported that all but 150 kilometres of the 4,500 kilometres pipeline, snaking westward from the Urengoi Gasfield in Siberia to the border with Czechoslovakia, was in place and work was under way on the last part through the Carpathian Mountains near the frontier.

The pipeline, due to be completed next year with an annual

capacity of 40 billion cubic metres of gas, could be ready ahead of schedule.

European companies are fulfilling contracts for compressors and other vital equipment, and a spokesman for one firm, AEG of West Germany, says shipments of turbines are back to normal.

The sanctions appear to have caused delays to deliveries but no long-term disruption of the project.

Reagan imposed the sanctions after the 1981 martial law crackdown in Poland and extended them last June to European subsidiaries of U.S. firms and those using licensed U.S. technology.

Soviet officials have said they did no damage and hardened Moscow's resolve to produce Soviet gas compressors to replace delayed imports from the West if necessary, although Western industry sources are sceptical about this prospect.

While the pipeline is proceeding apace, the Western allies remain at odds on the issue underlying the dispute — how far Western Europe should help boost the Soviet

economy with high-technology exports.

Reagan lifted the sanctions last November after reporting agreement with the European allies on studies aimed at more effective long-term measures to tighten trade with Moscow.

The studies are still under way as the Western allies head into a series of ministerial meetings in different bodies, ranging from the International Energy Agency to NATO itself.

Diplomats say progress reports, but not the final studies, seven industrial democracies in Williamsburg, Virginia.

The studies cover Western technological products whose export to Moscow is restricted and strengthening of the Coordinating Committee (Cocom) which oversees such trade curbs.

East-West trade as a whole, final flows, export credit terms and energy security are also under scrutiny.

But European and U.S. attitudes to dealing with Moscow remain far apart.

The European allies share

Washington's desire to keep strategic goods off the Soviet shopping list. But they also want to corner as much business as they can within the trade curbs.

Some Europeans see the Reagan administration in the words of a senior French official who declines to be identified, as "still trying to turn the alliance into an enormous machine for waging economic war."

British analysts say the trade issue is still delicate and could flare up again if Washington tries to use commerce as a weapon against Moscow in some future international crisis.

European governments have voiced strong objections to current proposals for revisions to the U.S. export administration act which would ban exports to the United States by companies judged to have violated U.S. security controls.

Although the Reagan administration clearly wants to avoid a repetition of the pipeline row, it appears determined to tighten trade with the Soviet Bloc.

But most Europeans do not

share Washington's hard-line approach and doubt the value of using trade as a weapon.

In the pipeline row, they rejected U.S. claims that their planned gas purchases would make them too dependent on Moscow and vulnerable to Soviet pressure.

As part of the deal to resolve the dispute, the European allies agreed not to sign further natural gas contracts with Moscow while the long-term studies proceed.

The issue is dormant because of lower demand in the recession and ample supplies from other sources. Another potential source of friction, a projected second Siberian pipeline, is unlikely to go ahead, energy experts say.

Pierre Delaporte, head of the state-run firm Gaz de France, told Reuters recently that France, which is to buy about eight billion cubic metres of Soviet gas a year, does not need supplies beyond present contracts and could withstand a Soviet cut-off for more than a year.

West German's Ruhrgas group will buy 10.5 billion cubic metres of Soviet gas a year, while Austria

plans to take 1.5 billion cubic metres.

Italy declared a pause for reflection on projected purchases of 8.5 billion cubic metres of Soviet gas after the start of the Polish martial law crisis and is still considering the deal. No early developments are likely.

Algerian natural gas is due to start flowing to Italy next month under a long-term contract which government officials say will give Italy adequate, strategically secure supplies. Pressure for a Soviet deal has faded, they add.

The Netherlands, itself a major supplier of gas to other European countries, announced last year it will not buy any Soviet gas for the time being.

The state-controlled firm Gasunie exported 34.8 billion cubic metres of gas to West Germany, Belgium, France and Switzerland last year, down from 42.8 billion in 1981.

The recession and conservation measures cut gas usage in these countries by five per cent last year, Gasunie said.

Italians regard elections with cynicism

By Michael Sheridan
Reuter

ROME — Forty-four million Italians will vote next month in a general election forced by the Socialist Party against the wishes of the head of state and apparently most of the population.

Many Italians outside the rarefied world of political manoeuvring regard the comings and goings of their governments, 43 of them since World War II, with weary cynicism.

Opinion polls suggest that when election time comes round indifference turns to the same irritation that greets the blustery, sand-laden Scirocco wind from the Mediterranean.

When the electorate is forced to the ballot box next June 26 to cast its compulsory vote, most polls and analysts expect almost no significant shift of power to result.

The Socialists made elections inevitable, over a year ahead of schedule, when they pulled out of Italy's Christian Democrat-led four-party coalition, forcing Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani to quit.

His eyes on Socialist heads of government in Spain, France, Portugal and Greece, Socialist leader Bettino Craxi was beginning to feel the odd man out among his European brothers and decided the time had come to make a bid for power.

However, political analysts are quick to comment that Italy is a special case, and whatever party propaganda says to the contrary, Craxi is neither a Mitterrand nor a Gonzalez.

His brand of Socialism is born of the compromises inherent in a sys-

tem of Christian Democrat-led coalitions intended primarily to keep the Communist Party from power.

The Communists are the country's second largest party with over 30 per cent of the vote in the last elections in 1979, compared with less than 10 per cent for Craxi.

But although the Socialists have little hope of improving their share of the vote by more than five per cent, Craxi knows the Christian Democrats cannot govern without him and plans to use his hoped-for bigger share as a lever to office.

Individual Socialist ministers have made it clear they will not be joining any coalition cabinet without Craxi in the prime minister's seat.

Yet the shifting sands of coalition alliances, especially among the smaller parties and the various groups within the Christian Democrats, are such that it would be a rash prophet who forecast a definitive outcome to any Italian election.

The voters do not seem to care much for the cleaned-up Christian Democrats, the "new-look" Communists or Craxi's red rose-handing Socialists.

And the minuscule Neo-Fascist Party is losing votes so quickly that even ex-dictator Mussolini's son has turned down an offer to be one of their candidates.

In fact, an apathy party would come third and hold the balance of power if those 18 per cent who plan to abstain or spoil their votes formed a cohesive group, according to a recent poll by the weekly magazine L'Espresso.

The economic issues seem clear

enough. Inflation at 16.8 per cent is by far from the highest of any major industrialised Western nation. Unemployment at 9.8 per cent, though lower than in many other European countries, is still high by previous standards and the underlying trend is upward.

Interest rates remain astronomical. When the Italian Banking Association cut its prime lending rate to 18.75 per cent merely underlined the sky-high cost of credit in Italy.

Survey after survey shows that most Italians have little or no faith in the ability of the established parties to solve the country's economic and social problems.

The Communists and other leftists say the real problem is the lack of a real alternative to endless coalitions in which the same faces switch jobs without changing policies.

Yet the urban guerrilla violence that plagued the last elections seems to have abated and there has been only one political shooting this year.

Italians also seem untouched by the anti-nuclear movements currently riding high in other West European countries, as the plans to deploy 112 U.S. cruise missiles in Sicily have brought mainly foreign protesters to the island.

Voting is compulsory, but the only sanction against abstainers is an entry in a "good conduct book" required of applicants for state employment.

In all, 44.4 million people will vote to elect the 630 members of the Chamber of Deputies or Lower House and 38.3 million electors are eligible to cast ballots for the 315 senators who sit in the Upper House.

Iceland has important role in NATO

By Helen Womack
Reuter

KEFLAVIK, Iceland — As the Soviet northern fleet continues to expand, Iceland is growing in importance as a major listening post for the Western alliance.

Relations between the 3,000 American servicemen stationed at the NATO base here and the local population are also easier after the bitterness of the 1970s, when Icelanders were angry with the Americans for not protecting them from British fishermen in the so-called Cod Wars.

"With the worsening international climate — Poland and Afghanistan — the Icelanders are beginning to realise that they need us," said Lieutenant Commander William Clyde, public relations officer for the base.

The American defence force here was established in 1951 by mutual agreement between Washington and Reykjavik to guard Iceland, which has no armed forces of its own.

Since Iceland lies almost exactly half way between Moscow and New York at the head of all the main North Atlantic Routes, the base also gave NATO a strategic advantage.

It was assigned the task of watching for attack and in the event of war, fighting a delaying action until reinforcements could arrive. But with the rapid growth of Soviet naval power, particularly the expansion of the northern fleet operating out of Murmansk, the base has taken on a new significance as an early warning post for the whole of NATO, Clyde said.

Navy and air force planes, including P-3 Orion anti-submarine aircraft and two recently acquired Airborne Warning and Control Aircraft (AWACS), maintain a 24-hour surveillance over the 103,000 square kilometre (40,000 square mile) island.

Although the U.S. navy controls the base, it has no ships here. Clyde said they now detected an average of 120 Soviet spy flights a year near Iceland. The Soviet planes usually remained in international airspace and the American forces did no more than record their movements.

Clyde declined to say what would happen if a Soviet plane violated Icelandic airspace beyond stressing NATO's commitment to defend Iceland in cooperation with the Reykjavik government.

He was equally reticent about Soviet submarine activity around Iceland, which he nevertheless suggested was increasing.

"When one of our planes detects a Soviet flight, they know about it. When we detect their submarines, they don't know and we are anxious to tell them how many we have identified," he said.

But he said northern fleet submarine movements had increased by an estimated 63 per cent between 1976 and 1981 while nuclear submarine movements within the fleet had gone up by 120 per cent in the same period.

With this increased activity and the recent experience of Sweden in mind, Icelanders are now more willing to accept the base than at any time since it was established. Two to one favour the

presence of the Americans, according to a new poll.

Sweden, which held a grounded Soviet submarine for 10 days in 1981, last week protested to Moscow over alleged intrusions by six Soviet submarines last October.

The main opposition to the American base came from the Communists and the left wing of the Socialist People's Alliance, traditionally a strong force in Icelandic politics, which said the Americans threatened to swamp Icelandic culture.

But as members of the last government, the Communists did nothing to dismantle the base and only vetoed fresh developments such as the building of a new runway. They were unable to use Keflavik as an issue in the general elections last month.

Only a group of feminists, who won three seats in the 60-member Althing (parliament), attacked the base. They opposed it on general pacifist grounds but said they would have to examine Keflavik's role in the Icelandic economy before pressing for its closure.

The United States spends \$80 million a year on the base. It employs 2,000 Icelanders and accounts for around four per cent of the country's gross national product.

The Americans, usually confined to camp, say they have been careful not to place strains on the local social structure.

They also improve their image by sharing their runways with Icelandic civilian airlines and providing air-sea rescue services and disaster relief, as when a volcano erupted on the Western Islands, south of the mainland, in 1973.

National carrier proves productive and profitable

By David Woolley

Amman — Jordan's national carrier has expanded its production more than tenfold in the past five years, and in the past two years has modernised its fleet considerably. To its three 747s the airline has added, since 1981, five L-1011-500s, and these wide-body types now make up the major part of the ton-km capacity.

A major leap in traffic in 1981 — more than 21 per cent in passengers and almost 40 per cent in cargo — reflected the influence of such factors as the Iran-Iraq war. Last year growth continued strongly — 19 per cent in passenger traffic and 17 per cent in cargo.

The airline's chairman, Ali Ghandour, described 1983 to us however as "another tough year" with traffic growth dropping well below that experienced recently, to about 8 per cent.

With total revenue up 36 per cent in 1981, the airline made a net profit of \$5.3 million. The key to survival in today's economic environment, said Mr. Ghandour, was the control of costs and maximising of revenue. From 1980 to 1981 Alia improved its revenue yield by 7 per cent while unit cost rose only 4 per cent, and the trend is being continued.

As Mr. Ghandour pointed out, the only one of the major cost items over which the airline has 100 per cent control is manpower, and consequently a prime objective has been the improvement of productivity and a limit on growth in the number of staff.

During the past three years, with average annual growth overall at around 20 per cent, the workforce has grown only 5 to 6 per cent per year.

As a result, productivity in terms of tonne-km per employee has improved from 40 to almost 100, putting the airline well up in the league table for major non-U.S. international carriers, and according to Mr. Ghandour ahead of all other Arab carriers.

"We asked for more production in the same working hours," he said; but it was not a case of wielding the big stick. The answer lay in better staff training: "they are producing more because they know more," he told us.

Alia's current route network extends to New York in the west and Karachi and Bangkok in the east, with coverage of most capital cities in the Arab World and in Western Europe, together with Larnaca, Istanbul, Athens, Belgrade and Bucharest.

Two services to the U.S. — Chicago and Houston — fell victim in 1981 to the air traffic control disruption in that country and the blow to Jordanian tourism caused by the closure by Israel of the bridge to the West Bank.

The services were withdrawn after only a few months, and have not yet been re-instated, although they figure in future planning. Last summer the New York service was stepped up to daily following encouraging results; five of the flights operate through Vienna and two through Amsterdam, with fifth freedom out of both.

Alia holds traffic rights in Brazil, and has for some time been eyeing the Latin American market, though without a start-up date at present.

It is in the Arab World, however, that the airline sees some of the biggest potential. Mr. Ghandour is frankly critical of the protectionist attitude of most other Middle East countries — "in my opinion it is very short sighted," he told us. The Arab World, he believes, is badly served, even though in most cases air is the only practicable mode of travel.

Fares remain high and there are few official discount rates; with liberal policies, he argues, the market would literally double, but bulk of the increase coming from an upsurge in family and private travel.

The Arab Air Carrier Organisation is criticised by Mr. Ghandour for being too little interested in finding new markets and promoting liberal policies. He added that he hated to see airlines taking up reactionary positions: "I don't think our citizens are being served," he said.

Queen Alia International Airport is needed "like yesterday," said Mr. Ghandour. The present Amman Airport was not a suitable gateway to the country; there had been talks about a new one for many years, but it was only when the government had begun to appreciate the growing importance to the country of tourism that things had started to move.

The airline has an important investment in the airport, the showpiece of which is its hangar, an unconventional award-winning building designed by Voest Alpine of Austria and forming part of the \$110 million engineering base.

The hangar's three triangular modules can accommodate a 747 and two 720s entirely under cover, with their noses in, towards the point where the apexes of the three modules meet.

During our visit in February the first commercial aircraft to use the airport, an Alia 707, was already installed in the hangar for a major overhaul. It appeared lost in the cavernous building.

Design features of the building include an ingenious system of door operation which is claimed to avoid the perennial problem of large hangar doors jamming with temperature changes. A counter-balance system removes most of the weight from the wheels and compensates for the shape, and movement with temperature change, of the bow girder overhead. Three sets of doors are provided, one to each triangular module of the building.

The hangar is heated in winter by a system which retains the warmth in the lower part of the space with an invisible barrier of controlled air currents dividing it from the cold air above.

Ceiling-mounted overhead cranes in each module are radial arms, the outer end following a circular track, giving access to most of the floor area.

Technical self-sufficiency is an objective which Alia has dear to its heart. The airline also plans to make contract engineering services available to airlines throughout the region. A \$50 million engine-overhaul facility including a Sulzer test cell and designed to handle RB-211s is currently under construction next to the hangar; the overhaul shops should be complete by the end of the year, and the test cell by April next year.

Alia's vice-president airport, passenger services, Akel Biltaji, sees great gains in efficiency at the new airport, especially from the use of airbridges and relatively little hussing. Baggage and cargo handling will be faster, he says, with only a 50-75 m (150-225 ft) haul for baggage from belly hold to belt.

Decent air conditioning in the terminal, and new signs and information displays, will all contribute to smoothing the operation, he says.

At present an aircraft can be turned round in 45 minutes — just about — but the normal time is 1½ hours. At the new airport the lower figure should become the norm.

Punctuality, in terms of flights departing within 15 minutes of schedule, is around 80 per cent, but is expected to improve at Queen Alia International. Air traffic control delays in other countries will however remain a problem.

Investment in ground support equipment this year alone is \$4 million, according to Mr. Biltaji.

most of it is in cargo and baggage handling.

The airline has looked at the Neoplan Galaxy, the airside bus for two decks and integral stairs, for serving the remote stands at Queen Alia International. Mr. Biltaji says he has some reservations about the vehicle; he sees a possible bottleneck in passenger flow internally.

Alia has had until now a near-monopoly in ground handling — Saudia handled itself — but at the new airport the Jordanian airline will be the sole handler. Asked about the question of a monopoly, Mr. Biltaji says that the arrangement is probably the only one practicable in local conditions, and anyway enables the ground investment to be more cost-effective. "We have not had any serious complaints about our service," he adds.

Alia has been its own project manager for its airport installations, through its subsidiary Arabair Services. This consultancy, formerly a joint venture with Syrian Arab Airlines, became wholly owned by the Jordanian carrier in August 1981.

Since then, its capacity has been almost entirely absorbed by the new airport, both as consultant to the Ministry of Transport and as project manager for Alia's own facilities.

These facilities include not only the maintenance base but also a cargo centre (both complete), an operations building, and the \$21.5 million Alia Gateway Hotel on the airport boundary. The 315-room hotel, essentially a transit hotel and needed because of the relative remoteness of the new airport, is being built by French contractor SODETEG. It is due for completion next year.

Arabair Services' managing director, Hilmi Ghandour (brother of the airline's chairman), points out that one of the firm's major tasks is the co-ordination of the move from the old airport to the new. It had already taken over the south terminal on behalf of the Ministry to prepare it for occupation by the airline; and as Alia is the largest single user of the new airport Arabair Services is maintaining close, if unofficial, co-ordination contact with other users.

A split operation at the two airports in the initial stages is ruled out by Mr. Ghandour, although he says there may be some "dry-run" flights before opening. Staff have been trained to operate the airbridges however with the aid of mock-up aircraft doors.

Mr. Ghandour points to Singapore Airline's successful overnight move from Paya Lebar to Changi, and the similar transfer at Tokyo, and says that Alia can do the same.

When the airport work is complete, what will Arabair Services do then? Mr. Ghandour expounds with enthusiasm his view of the firm expanding into foreign consultancy work, especially in the Third World. With its record at home, he says, the firm's credibility abroad is high.

It will have the enormous advantage, he says, of belonging to an airline whose name is good and which has weathered the recession; the managers who solved the airline's early problems are still in their seats, he points out, while those of many a larger airline have vanished in the slump to be replaced by newcomers.

Mr. Ghandour's intention is not to oust the older-established consultancies of the West. "We have no hang-up about asking them for expertise," he told *Airports International*; "and we hope that when they're in Third World countries they won't hesitate to ask us."

Arabair Services does not have the capacity to design a complete airport, although the firm wishes it had been more involved in the early design stages of Queen Alia International — it would for example have urged on the original planners the inclusion of the road tunnel under the parallel link taxiways referred to above.

Typical of its future role abroad, says Mr. Ghandour, is the current management contract with Sierra Leone Airways, under which Alia is supplying a 707. Arabair Services carried out the initial studies of the West African country's facilities and the airline's route network potential. An inter-governmental agreement with Jordan followed last year.

One thing which Mr. Ghandour is trying to break away from is the turnkey contract, which in his view can lead to the customer paying over the odds. Most of the extra cost goes on project coordination, and some 25 per cent of the turnkey price can be saved, he argues — provided that the customer has the necessary expertise to handle it himself. In Arabair Services' case, it can draw also on Alia's expertise.

The engine test cell, he says, is a case in point. Arabair Services is managing this project itself; the contractor was selected from intense competition, and the outcome will be one of the more sophisticated test facilities in existence, says Mr. Ghandour.

If it had been a turnkey job, he adds, the cost would have been one-and-a-half or two times greater, because of the unusually difficult coordination task involved.

Of course there are risks involved, he agrees; "but that's what engineers are there for. We're willing to take the risk."

One final factor in Arabair Services' favour, says Mr. Ghandour, is that Jordan is the most air-minded and aviation-aware country in the Middle East (with one possible exception). This awareness gives airline and consultant a head start — and it emanates from the King himself. He becomes involved in meetings to the same extent as any rank-and-file engineer, showing an excellent grasp of detail — "which," says Mr. Ghandour, "can be most embarrassing to anyone who hasn't done their homework."

— *Airports International magazine*

At the present time in Jordan, a segment of society is becoming more and more affluent. The people comprising this segment are the peace-setters — the people others try to imitate and emulate. This is progress — and progress is good.

However, there are some drawbacks. One of these is the loss of traditional customs, manners, and values. Some people might say, "So, what? Who needs old customs and values? They hinder progress." But the old traditions also provide the solid foundation on which a country builds its future and future generation of people.

Today some people are very busy with material possessions and social activities. Children are being given every gadget and toy on the market, but many are being given less and less real attention from their parents. Television and videos

are the first teachers the children have, as many parents use them increasingly as babysitters. Instead of a cosy bedtime story, children have video games.

Servants are perhaps the most negative contribution to the loss of values. Servants are usually good, well-meaning people, but most of them come from other countries. So, many children are being taught the values of other cultures instead of their own. Not only are they losing the manners and the values of their own country, they are losing the language as well. Many of the maids speak only very broken English and no Arabic; therefore children are not using their native language and are learning pidgin English instead. Maids supervise many children's waking hours, their food, their play, and their bedtime, while parents are involved either with work or with

some kind of social activity. I am not suggesting that people give up their maids and cooks or their fun. Servants help make life easier, and why should anyone have to scrub floors and dust when they can hire someone to do it for them? I am suggesting, however, that more parents should spend more quality time with their children — talk to them, take them places, read them stories, supervise their food and meals, and supervise their dress. Parents shouldn't give up all responsibility just because they can afford servants to do the menial chores. Children, even in this day of gadgets, material possessions, and affluence, still need the personal, loving attention that only a parent can give. Many children today are indeed "poor little rich kids."

The author is director of the Abdul Hamid Sharaf School, Amman.

Light-fingered lunchers

The owner of a deluxe restaurant in Amman was talking to me the other day about his exasperation with his customers, who were "borrowing" from the restaurant ashtrays, glasses, salt cellars, and so on. This gentleman, wanting to do things well, has chosen beautiful glass and china for his restaurant, and as a result it disappears.

This is a symptom that is well known all over the world. Many are those who fall into the temptation, at least once in their life, of taking with them from a hotel where they spend their vacation, a clothes hanger, towel or other petty item. This practice may be childish, but so long as it stays within the limit of ashtrays, remains fairly innocent.

However, many hotels are now taking precautions against this petty larceny. The clothes hangers cannot be removed and the lamp shades are not mobile...

I am told that in the United States a hotel which was losing bathrobes had the clever idea of putting the following sign in the bathrooms: "If you like this bathrobe, take it." As a result, the hotel lost fewer and fewer bathrobes. The moral of the story is simple. Since the hotel administration was encouraging the customers to take the bathrobes, they were not interested in them anymore.

And this is the advice I have given to my friend the restaurant owner. If the glasses are offered to the clients, they will not disappear any more.

Alternatively, he could print on all removable items the following slogan (which I have seen in European restaurants): "It was stolen from X restaurant". It would be free advertisement, at least.

— *Airports International magazine*

Randa Habib's CORNER

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Poor little rich kids

By Dr. Sue Dahdah

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TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:30 — Koran
16:40 — Cartoon
17:10 — The Munch Bunch
17:20 — Nana Anderson
18:50 — Big Blue Marble
19:00 — Local Programme
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Arabic Series
21:30 — Arabic Film
22:30 — News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 — French Programme
19:00 — News in French
19:30 — News in Hebrew
20:30 — The Foundation
22:00 — News in English
22:15 — Movie of the Week: "War Bride"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
at parity on 9560 KHz, SW

07:10 — Morning Show
10:00 — News Summary
10:05 — Pop Session
12:00 — News Summary
12:05 — Pop Session
13:00 — News Summary
13:05 — Pop Session
14:00 — News Bulletin
14:10 — News Summary
14:30 — Young Sound
15:00 — Concert Hour
16:00 — News Summary
16:05 — Instrumentals, Old Favourites
17:00 — Special Feature, Pop Session
18:00 — News Summary
18:05 — Story Time
18:30 — Music Makers
19:00 — News Desk
19:30 — Date with a Star
20:00 — Evening Show
21:00 — News Summary
21:05 — Evening Show
22:00 — News Summary
22:05 — Evening Show
24:00 — News Headlines, Sign Off

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz
06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 International

07:00 — Morning Show
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SPORTS

FISA rejects Williams appeal

PARIS (R) — International motor racing's governing body FISA Wednesday rejected an appeal by the Williams Formula One team against Finland's Keke Rosberg's disqualification in the Brazilian Grand Prix in March.

A FISA spokesman said that the Williams appeal had been rejected and that the details of the decision would be given later.

Rosberg, reigning world champion, had been disqualified from second place in the Brazilian Grand Prix on March 13 when the stewards there ruled that his mechanics had broken the rules when they pushed his car after a pit-stop.

Rosberg had recovered from a

brief electrical fire in his Williams during the crucial pit-stop. He returned to the track in Ninth position.

But a brilliant piece of driving brought him up to second place at the finishing line behind Brazilian Nelson Piquet in a Brabham.

FISA's decision Wednesday means that Rosberg remains eighth in the current World Championship standings after four races. In equal first place are Piquet and France's Alain Prost.

The committee hearing the appeal started meeting Tuesday morning but did not take a final decision until Wednesday. No immediate reaction was available from the Williams team.

Last year the Williams team and Rosberg were involved in an appeal to FISA over the previous Brazilian Grand Prix in 1982.

Rosberg and Piquet were disqualified following a complaint by the Renault and Ferrari teams that their cars were underweight according to Grand Prix regulations.

FISA upheld the disqualifications and a Paris civil court rejected a request by the Williams team to have the results of that race suspended.

Rosberg, 34, won his World Championship title last year by consistent driving rather than a string of victories. His only win was the Swiss Grand Prix held at Dijon in France.

Patterson still baffles boxing world

LONDON (R) — It is over 10 years since former world heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson retired from the ring, but he remains one of boxing's greatest enigmas.

At 21 he became the youngest man ever to win the heavyweight crown, but 30 months later he was so crushingly defeated that his courage and ability were questioned.

Yet he came back after a year to regain the title with such a display of punching power that press and public wondered how he had ever lost it.

For Patterson, now 48, the physical pain of those memorable title

fight against Sweden's Ingemar Johansson between 1959 and 1961 has long since faded. But the mental scars of his devastating defeat in their first meeting are still vivid.

"Physical injuries don't mean anything compared to mental feelings," Patterson told Reuters during a visit to London, where he is offering his advice and experience to Britain's latest heavyweight prospect, Frank Bruno.

He recalls his boxing thoughts and memories with calm deliberation, but at times reveals a curious and quirky sensitivity to attempts to analyse his career or his sport.

"Unless you've walked in my shoes and experienced what I've experienced, don't talk for me, I resent it," he says.

He is quietly proud of what he has done for boxing since his retirement. As athletic commissioner for his home state of New York, he is deeply involved in the organisation of amateur boxing. He also finances and runs a boxing club where he has trained more than 1,000 young fighters over the past 10 years.

His pride in his achievements in the ring is of a different kind, almost defensive. "Most of the guys that I've fought were much stronger than I was. It was my ability and my speed that won the fight, not my strength. What good is a punch if you can never land it?"

Apart from Johansson, only three men have beaten Patterson. Sonny Liston knocked him on points, twice and his two fights with Muhammad Ali were stopped. "I was on my feet," Patterson says.

Few would deny that he is recognised as one of boxing's greatest ambassadors. "I have never said anything derogatory about any of my opponents," he says.

But the bitter memory of his humiliating defeat by Johansson is enough to make him drop his mild-mannered, diplomatic guard.

"Of all the opponents I have fought, I have never disliked one as much as I disliked Ingemar Johansson," Patterson says.

The Swede knocked him down seven times in the third round before the fight was stopped. "I did not like him," Patterson adds, "not because of what he did to me but because of all the things he said about me afterwards."

"He said that I couldn't punch, that I couldn't fight. When you beat someone, isn't that enough?" he asks.

Patterson admits that the shame of losing the title, and of the manner in which he lost it, drove him into hiding. He took refuge from an incredulous press and public by secluding himself in a remote mountain training camp in Connecticut, where he began preparing for his re-match with Johansson.

He says he now knows his opponent well and likes him but the memory of what was said about him then still rankles.

"Here was a man that I didn't even know. You would think this guy and me had a private ven-

detta, you would think we had a private relationship or something," he says.

The nine months before his victorious second meeting with Johansson, were, he recalls, some of the hardest of his life.

Patterson tells Johansson

He remembers saying to himself on the day of the fight: "I may not win tonight, probably get knocked out again, probably get beat, but there's one thing you can be sure about, I'm going to prove to him that I'm a better fighter than he thought."

Patterson felled Johansson with a left hook in the fifth round which left the Swede unconscious for eight minutes.

Nine months later, in their third fight, he knocked him out again and his position as undisputed world heavyweight champion was once again secure.

Patterson started boxing at the age of 14 "just for something to do" while living as one of a large family in a black ghetto in New York.

"In the ghettos you have alcohol, crime, narcotics and boxing. You have a choice. I chose boxing," he says.

He speaks of boxing, with all the vehemence of a social crusader, as a means of escape for those born in the ghettos.

"Many of them succeed but most of them don't. But it does change their lives. Boxing changes lives. Even if you never win a title, even if you never make a good fighter, boxing will change your life to the point that it will better it," he says.

A reminder that there are those who would like to see boxing abolished because of the danger of death and injury draws a surprising outburst from the softly-spoken former champion.

"Who are these people that say it's barbaric sport? I'll tell you who they are. They are white collar workers, people who have never even seen the ghettos, much less lived there."

"They're the dictators. They're the ones who sit behind their desks, smoke their cigars with their white shirts and neckties on and say 'I feel this, I feel that, I feel the other.'"

"Don't take boxing away," he pleads. "I say look what it's done for me. My whole life I owe to boxing."

But as New York State Athletic

Commissioner he is anxious that boxing safety rules should be improved and standardised to reduce the risk of death or serious injury. Patterson, who during his career seemed to fear words more than punches, also thinks fighters should not publicly discuss their opponents.

"I don't believe in talking, because you talk, you talk, you talk, and then you go out there and you get knocked out. So don't say anything. Whatever I said I said to myself," he says.

Although he says he respects all his opponents, his own boxing favourite is Joe Louis. "The greatness of a champion is not just what he does inside the ring but also how he carries himself outside," he says.

"Boxing is not an easy sport," he adds. "It's very difficult to keep hungry. If you don't have a love for the sport and you lose your hunger, you're not going anywhere."

Patterson believes former world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali will have difficulty in coping with retirement and will miss the adulation of a boxing public which is single-minded in its desire to watch only champions.

He says television's present interest in big-money title fights has also ignored the fact that the number of boxers in the world has fallen dramatically over the past 30 years.

"There has been a tremendous change simply because we don't have the fighters around that we once had," Patterson says.

Current champions now face far less competition than champions 30 years ago. "Then you had heavyweights all over the world," Patterson says, "and the more competition, the better the fighter."

Swiss soccer hopes suffer severe setback

INTERLAKEN, Switzerland (R) — Switzerland, battling to qualify for the European Soccer Championship finals in France next year, saw their hopes recede further when two more key players were ruled out due to injuries.

Goalkeeper Erich Burgener and sweeper Alain Geiger, both from Servette Geneva, have failed to pass fitness tests and have been omitted from the squad nominated for Saturday's vital match against East Germany in Bern.

Two other regulars, Zurich's rugged defender Heinz Luedi and midfielder Hans-Peter Zwicker, are also sidelined through injuries and were not included in the squad by coach Paul Wolfisberg.

Zurich Grasshopper goalkeeper Roger Berbig comes in for Burgener who would have celebrated his 60th cap and St. Gallen defender beat Rietmann and Grasshopper's midfielder Marcel

Koller have been pulled out of the under-21 team to join the squad with Zurich midfielder Erni Maisen.

Switzerland, who have three points from three games in Group One, must win their remaining three matches including a home tie against leaders Belgium who have maximum points from four matches while Scotland must beat Belgium at home to ensure a Swiss presence in France.

Cruyff to leave Ajax

AMSTERDAM (R) — Former Dutch soccer international Johan Cruyff will leave Ajax Amsterdam on July 1, club chairman Anton Harnsen said Wednesday.

Harnsen told reporters that negotiations with Cruyff's business manager Hans Muller on a new contract for the 36-year-old midfielder ended without result Tuesday.

Cruyff rejoined Ajax, where he began his professional career, in December 1981.

Press reports quoted Cruyff as saying Ajax had avoided discussing the financial aspects of a new contract. The player had now decided to look for another club.

Cruyff has said he only wants to play one more season, and preferably in the Netherlands. Reports said that Feyenoord Rotterdam were interested in signing Cruyff as well as several other European clubs.

Bulgaria, Hungary in the running for boxing medals

VARNA, Bulgaria (R) — East Europeans booked six of the eight medal places in the flyweight and welterweight divisions at the European Amateur Boxing Championships Tuesday.

Bulgaria's Olympic gold medalist and defending European champion Peter Lessov reached the semifinals of the flyweight (51 kgs) category with an easy 5-0 win over Italy's Damiano Laureta.

Lessov, 23, a professional soldier and former European junior champion, was rarely troubled by the Italian and coasted to victory keeping his best for later bouts.

Olympic bronze medalist Janos Varadi of Hungary, cruised to his semifinal berth in the division with similar ease, outpointing Ireland's Gerry Dubby.

Another former European junior champion, Rashid Kabirov of the Soviet Union also scored a straight 5-0 win over Polish newcomer Zbigniew

Raubo.

But Romania's defending European silver medalist Constantine Titoiu had the easiest passage stopping East Germany's Wolfgang Prosch in the first round.

Ireland's Kieran Joyce and Italy's Luciano Bruno pierced East Europe's dominance by reaching the welterweight (67 kgs) semifinals along with Pyotr Galkin of the Soviet Union and Romania's Mihai Ciubotaru.

Earlier Yuri Alexandrov of the Soviet Union, the reigning world bantamweight champion, was among the first four boxers to clinch semifinal places at the championships.

The others were former European silver medalist Sami Buzoli of Yugoslavia, East Germany's Klaus Dieter Kirchstein, the 1982 world championship bronze medalist, and Czech Pavol Madura.

Hagler title defence postponed

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (R) — A knee injury has forced Marvin Hagler, the world middleweight boxing champion, to postpone his scheduled title defence against (fellow-American) Wilford Scypion here Thursday, it was announced Wednesday.

But fight promoter Bob Arum said the injury was not serious and the bout would probably be rescheduled for May 26 or May 27.

According to doctor Charles Parsons, Hagler has inflamed the tendon of his left knee which restricts his movement. Arum said the world's only undisputed champion suffered the injury last week while wearing combat boots on a training run on a Cape Cod beach.

A row has flared over the distance the fight should go. The World Boxing Council (WBC), which has imposed 12-round limits on title fights, wants the fight reduced from 15 rounds, the distance for World Boxing Association (WBA) title bouts.

The WBC had threatened to strip Hagler of his crown, but on Tuesday President Jose Sulaiman said if Hagler won he would retain his WBC title.

Seeds fall in West German Open

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — Andres Gomez of Ecuador, seeded number nine, crashed out of the West German Open Tennis Championship here Tuesday after being beaten by qualifier Eddie Edwards of South Africa.

Gomez, beaten 6-1, 6-3, was one of three seeds who slumped to surprise first round defeats Tuesday.

Frenchman Henri Leconte, seeded 15th, went out 7-6, 6-2 to Pavel Slozil of Czechoslovakia while American Mel Purcell, seeded 14th, lost to his compatriot Jimmy Brown 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Australia's Mark Edmondson was one seed who did survive—but only after struggling for nearly two-and-a-half hours against West German Peter Elter.

Elter, rated 78th in the world, raced away to take the first set 6-1 before Edmondson levelled the tie by winning the second 6-4. The pair battled for victory in the final set before Edmondson clinched the match by winning the tie break 7-2.

Rosewall beats Fraser

KOBE, Japan (R) — Veteran Ken Rosewall of Australia beat his compatriot Neale Fraser 6-0, 7-6 on the opening day of a \$200,000 international tennis tournament here Wednesday.

The victory put 48-year-old Rosewall in the semi-finals of the men's singles, which will be played in Tokyo on Saturday.

Leigh Thompson of the United States beat Carling Bassett of Canada 6-2, 6-1 in another match.

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For sale: Toyota Corolla 1978 Tel: 669023 after 3 p.m. Fridays - all day.

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A newly deluxe furnished apartment, comprising two bedrooms, two bathrooms, fully equipped kitchen, big sitting room and dining room. Centrally heated with private telephone. Location: Jordan University professors housing quarter.

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Consisting of two bedrooms, sitting room, living room, dining room and porch, with separate central heating, telephone, garden and garage. Please tel:

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Consisting of one bedroom, salon, sitting room, dining room, and other modern utilities with central heating.

Location: Umm Uthaina - behind Shmeisani petrol station

Tel: 815033 after 3:00 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL-JORDANIAN FESTIVAL

American Community School, 8th Circle

Friday, May 13, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Join the Jordanian Army Band, Flying Falcons, Jordan Intercontinental, Regency Palace, Marriott, Holiday Inn Hotels, embassies, craft artists, charity organisations, Alia Folklore Troupe - for an exciting day. Raffle prizes also instore. Games for children and good food. Entry: Adults 300 fils, children 200 fils

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1. A two-bedroom furnished flat with salon, sitting room, dining room, two verandas, two bathrooms. Central heating and separate telephone. Total area: 190 sq. metres.

2. A three-bedroom furnished flat: Salon, sitting room, dining room, two verandas, three bathrooms, large kitchen. Central heating and separate telephone. Total area: 245 sq. metres.

Location: Jabal Amman - 2nd Circle - Lebanese Embassy by street-2nd turn right.

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Diplomatic mission has vacancy for a clerk-typist with very good knowledge of English and Arabic. English typing speed minimum 45 words per minute. Apply in writing to Personnel Office, P.O. Box 354, Amman, giving phone number if available.

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Location behind Al Dustour newspaper, near the French School.

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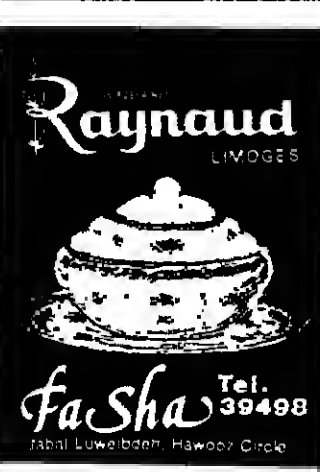
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WORLD

Apartheid bulwark keeps power

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The leading right-wing opponent of South African government plans to extend political rights to some non-whites held his parliamentary seat Wednesday in one of three by-elections.

Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht retained his Northern Transvaal seat of Waterberg with a handsome majority over his ruling Nationalist Party opponent.

Mr. Treurnicht, dubbed the high priest of apartheid, quit the party of Prime Minister P.W. Botha last year with 17 other members of parliament opposed to any dilution of white supremacy.

In another contest, in the lush Pretoria suburb of Waterkloof, the Nationalists beat off an anti-apartheid challenge to its controversial plans for constitutional reform. The third result, from the hardline Northern Transvaal seat of Soutpansberg, was expected later Wednesday.

The elections were regarded by both right and left as a stiff test of the government's proposals. These would give a limited measure of power to Asians and coloureds (people of mixed race) although ignoring the blacks who form 70 per cent of the population.

Mr. Treurnicht won 5,706 votes against the Nationalist candidate's 3,812 and the 2,639 votes of the ultra-right Herstigte National Party (HNP) leader Jaap Marais.

The Conservative Party leader, who held Waterberg for 11 years before quitting Mr. Botha's party, increased his majority to 1,894 from 1,461 in the 1981 general election.

In Waterkloof, Nationalist candidate Org Marais held the seat with 6,917 votes. The anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party (PFP) had been widely tipped to win but managed to muster only 4,886 votes.

The suburban Pretoria constituency had been vacated by Tom Langley, who is standing against Manpower Minister Fanie Botha in Soutpansberg, near the Zimbabwe border.

Tuesday's by-elections were caused by Manpower Minister Botha, who issued a challenge to Mr. Treurnicht and Langley to stand for re-election with him three months ago in a test of support for the government's reform plans.

Prime Minister Botha has promised to scrap South Africa's whites-only Westminster style

parliament in favour of a three-chamber parliament for whites, coloureds and Indians and an executive president.

A close finish is predicted in Soutpansberg. The manpower minister refused to comment on his chances of re-election after polling ended Tuesday night but Langley was optimistic of winning.

"If it goes as we think it will go, then we will have struck a blow for conservatism, the white man and South Africa," he told cheering supporters.

A fourth test of strength, for a seat in the Transvaal Provincial Council, ended in victory for the Nationalists, despite a strong right-wing challenge.

The Nationalist candidate held the provincial seat of Carltonville, a mining town south-west of Johannesburg.

Police investigation

PRETORIA (R) — Police said Wednesday they were investigating the death of a black farmworker who died while in custody during inquiries into cattle theft.

A spokesman said Themba Manana, a 38-year-old father of seven, was found dead in his cell in the eastern town of Dirkesdorp

on May 3, a day after being arrested. The spokesman said he could give no indication of the cause of death pending a post mortem.

The dead man's father, Absalom Manana, who was arrested at the same time and later released, told reporters that after being questioned he said he would not go home without his son.

"The captain then spoke to a black policeman who told me my son was dead," he said. "I was shown into a cell where I saw my son lying on the floor."

"I asked the policeman how my son had died and I got no reply."

Meanwhile Black African "front-line" states will hold an emergency meeting in Tanzania Thursday, Zimbabwe government sources said.

The so-called front-line — Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana and Angola — are the African states most closely concerned with independence for Namibia (South West Africa) and South African policies.

The one-day meeting, which will be attended by Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Robert Mugabe and leaders of the five other states, had been called at short notice, the sources said.

Kampuchean children suffer from malnutrition

BANGKOK (R) — More than half of the children in provinces around Phnom Penh are suffering from severe malnutrition, according to a United Nations study of food supplies in Vietnamese-occupied Kampuchea.

International aid workers in Bangkok and the Kampuchean capital said the report counters claims by the Vietnamese-backed Heng Samrin government and Ha Noi that living conditions are rapidly returning to normal and that the lot of the average peasant is improving.

The report, based on a month-long survey during February and March, has not yet been published but will be used as the basis for a fresh appeal for funds when U.N. aid agencies hold their annual meeting with Western donor countries in New York on May 24.

The aid workers said a 130,000-tonne shortfall in rice production was expected in Kampuchea this year and that it must be met either from Western or Soviet-bloc supplies.

The report said U.N. agencies would need about \$20 million for

immediate aid in the form of fertilisers and seed, medicines, and emergency protein-rich food supplies.

Aid workers said the U.N. special representative on assistance to Kampuchea, Sir Robert Jackson, was expected to highlight the nutrition problem in his negotiations with Western donors and to make a separate appeal to Soviet-bloc countries.

The Heng Samrin government, installed by Vietnam after its invasion of Kampuchea in December 1978, is recognised only by Moscow, its allies and India.

A rival coalition including the ousted Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge and led by former head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk is recognised by the United Nations as Kampuchea's legitimate government.

Aid agency officials in Phnom Penh say rice production would at least double through greater use of fertiliser.

Until Kampuchea was engulfed in the American war in Vietnam in 1970, it was one of the region's major food exporters.

Vietnam vet says how he skinned woman alive

NEW YORK (R) — A U.S. veteran of the Vietnam War told a court Tuesday that he and other soldiers skinned alive a Vietnamese woman who had "booby-trapped" one of their colleagues.

Tyrene Rison, 36, drew gasps from courtroom spectators as he revealed his wartime atrocity under cross-examination during the trial of six people accused of taking part in a Brink's armored car robbery in New York in October 1981 in which three people were killed.

Mr. Rison, 36, has admitted to being a member of the gang which carried out the robbery, though he says he did not take part in the actual hold-up. He turned informant for the government and is giving evidence for the prosecution in the current case.

He was questioned by the defence, seeking to discredit him as a witness, about his record in Vietnam.

In a matter-of-fact tone, he told the court that the soldiers "mercy killed" a fellow serviceman after he had been injured by a Vietnamese woman who, Mr. Rison said, had "booby trapped" her body and severely injured the soldier.

"At that point, we managed to catch her, tie her up and skin her," he said.

"While she was alive?" asked the defence attorney. "That's correct," Mr. Rison replied.

Mr. Rison has already pleaded guilty to murdering a guard in another Brink's robbery, in June, 1981, and will be sentenced for this crime at the conclusion of the current trial.

U.S. puts economic pressure on Nicaragua

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has ordered a cut in sugar imports from Nicaragua with the aim of putting economic pressure on the leftist-ruled nation.

The decision was announced one day after a congressional report said U.S. trade sanctions against the Soviet Union probably did more damage to the American economy than to the Soviet economy.

The White House said in a statement Tuesday that Honduras, Costa Rica and El Salvador would get Nicaragua's share of the U.S.

sugar market. The quota is estimated to be worth \$14 million.

"These three countries are experiencing enormous problems, caused in considerable part by Nicaraguan-supported subversion and extremist violence," the White House said.

U.S. officials said Nicaragua would be allowed to ship 6,000 tonnes of sugar to the United States in the financial year starting Oct. 1 compared with 58,800 in the current year.

The White House said the Uni-

ted States hoped lower sales by Nicaragua would "reduce the resources available to that country for financing its military build-up."

The decision came a day after the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), a congressional research unit, said in its report that U.S. sanctions on grain, oil and gas technology sales in retaliation for the Soviet move into Afghanistan and the military crackdown in Poland "did not hurt vulnerable sectors of the Soviet economy."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee meanwhile delivered a setback for Mr. Reagan's Central American policy by voting to cut \$70 million off his request for \$22.6 million in military aid for El Salvador in the next two years.

But the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee approved an additional \$20 million in military aid for Honduras, making a total of \$1 million, to help it block supplies sent by Nicaragua to leftist guerrillas in El Salvador.

Stern reporter names source of forged diaries

BONN (R) — The West German reporter who discovered the forged "Hitler diaries" says he obtained them from a Stuttgart dealer using the name Konrad Fischer.

Gerd Heidemann, dismissed by the news magazine Stern Tuesday, told Reuters that the man telephoned him on Monday, claiming to speak from an Eastern European country and confessing that he had lied about the diaries' authenticity.

Mr. Heidemann said Stern investigations in East Germany had shown that Fischer was an alias and that his real name was Kujau.

The reporter had refused to reveal his source publicly even after the diaries were pronounced fakes by West German officials last week.

But he told Reuters that his source was Fischer, who has a small shop dealing in Hitler mem-

orabilia in Stuttgart, after Stern publisher Henri Nannen revealed the name to newsmen at a Bonn reception.

Neighbours in Stuttgart's Scheibersstrasse said they had not seen the dealer for about three weeks and that the steel shutters on his shop windows were down.

Mr. Heidemann said, both he and Nannen doubted that Fischer/Kujau was in Eastern Europe. Mr. Nannen said the man had claimed to be speaking from a telephone box in Czechoslovakia.

The 51-year-old reporter said the man had claimed that he received the 62 diaries from East German sources including two brothers — one a general and the other a museum director.

But they turned out to be a railway porter and a museum concierge, he said.

Canberra faces scandal

CANBERRA (R) — A former national secretary of the Australian Labour Party has a relationship with an expelled Soviet diplomat which gave rise to serious security concerns, Prime Minister Bob Hawke told parliament Wednesday.

Mr. Hawke said the secretary, David Combe, had been or appeared to have been compromised by Soviet embassy first secretary Valery Ivanov, ordered out of Australia on April 22 for spying.

It was the second embarrassing security revelation this month for the Labour government, elected to power in a general election on March 5.

The government has taken out an injunction to stop an Australian newspaper, the National Times, from publishing secret documents relating to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO).

The one article published prior

to the injunction said ASIO had provided the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency with potentially damaging material on leading Australians.

Combe's relationship with the Soviet diplomat was alleged to have occurred after August, 1981, when he ceased to be party secretary after five years in office.

Mr. Hawke gave no details of Combe's relationship with Ivanov, who was alleged to be a member of the KGB, the Soviet secret police.

He said that on all information available there was no evidence that a criminal offence had been committed by Combe, who now runs a lobbying and consultancy business in Canberra.

But he said information and advice available to the government "suggested that Mr. Combe's relationship with Ivanov had developed to the point that it gave rise to serious security concerns."

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

GETTING THERE

By Albie Mice

- ACROSS
1 Brilliantly
2 Speedy fish
3 Court star
4 Doctors' org.
5 Book titles
6 Forget
7 Reptiles
8 Charlie the
9 South
10 Little of Spinks
11 Tar
12 Margaret
13 million
14 "For want
15 of"

- DOWN
1 Norwegian king
2 Tokyo, once
3 Whipped
4 Barber's
5 offing
6 London of
7 politics
8 Turkish palace
9 Oriental pipes
10 Ribs
11 Sea-between
12 Railroad
13 worker
14 Fortner
15 Snow White's
16 friend
17 Pistol
18 School book
19 Tasty
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Diagramless

21 X 21, by J. & P. Barrick

- ACROSS
1 Town in
2 England
3 Exchange
4 Stockholm
5 airline
6 Wing
7 Barbed plant
8 About
9 Bury
10 Sufficient
11 Lush, esp.
12 Warrant look
13 Ruffian

- DOWN
1 Used a broom
2 Rice field
3 Mimic
4 Long-necked
bird
5 Difficulty
6 Ocean
7 Lobs and
8 Opposing one
9 Corner
10 French friends

- 26 Japanese
27 Partner of Jerry
28 "O Sole"
29 Book titles
30 Forget
31 Reptiles
32 Charlie the
33 South
34 Little of Spinks
35 Tar
36 Margaret
37 million
38 "For want
39 of"

- 36 "— was saying"
37 Tokyo, once
38 Whipped
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42 politics
43 Turkish palace
44 Oriental pipes
45 Ribs
46 Sea-between
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Congressman's conviction overturned

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. court of appeals Tuesday restored the conviction of a former congressman for taking a bribe from an FBI agent disguised as an Arab businessman in the so-called "ABSCAM" corruption scandal. Republican Richard Kelly was the only one of seven congressmen found guilty in the highly publicised bribery case to have his conviction overturned. He failed to win re-election to his Florida seat while awaiting trial in 1980. The appeals court ruled that the FBI ABSCAM operation did not reach the level of outrageousness "which would bar prosecution of the corrupt officials that were uncovered."

British soldier's wife shot dead

LONDON (R) — A British soldier's wife was shot dead Tuesday night while trying to shield her husband from two masked gunmen, police said Wednesday. The men burst into the home of Sergeant Brian Purvis in Londonderry, second city of British-ruled Northern Ireland, as he and his wife, 47, watched television, they said. Mrs. Purvis threw herself in front of him and was shot in the back, a spokesman said. The soldier and a sister of Mrs. Purvis were shot and wounded. British soldiers are regular targets of Irish guerrillas fighting to end British rule in the province.

Sheriff charged with water torture

HOUSTON (R) — A former county sheriff was freed on \$10,000 bail Tuesday after a federal grand jury charged him and three ex-deputies with using water torture to extract confessions from prisoners. A six-count indictment alleged J.C. "Humpty" Parker, and former deputies Carl Lee, 63, Floyd Allen Baker, 40, and John Glover, 65, tortured and conspired to violate the civil rights of at least six prisoners between 1976 and 1980. The prosecution has alleged the water torture consisted of wrapping a towel over the nose and mouth of a prisoner and pouring water onto the towel until he began to suffocate. According to court papers, Parker, 47, also stopped cars driven by blacks or long-haired men, or carrying bumper stickers of a Houston rock radio station, and carried out strip searches of men and women at the roadside.

Moscow invites 10-year-old U.S. girl

MANCHESTER, Maine (R) — The Soviet government will pay for a two-week trip to Russia by a 10-year-old American girl who has exchanged letters with Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, her family said Tuesday.

Mr. Andropov invited Samantha Smith in a letter to her last month, and Samantha said she hopes to meet him in Moscow this summer. But if he isn't available, she said, "I hope to see Lenin's tomb and go to the circus." Samantha wrote to Mr. Andropov earlier this year, congratulating him on becoming the leader of the Soviet Union and asking him if that meant a future war between her country and his. Mr. Andropov wrote back, assuring her that the Soviet Union only wanted peace and inviting her to come and see for herself. The trip offer came Tuesday and included an invitation for her parents, said her father, Arthur Smith.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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THE CARDS TELL THE STORY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ K876
♥ K982
♠ A K J
♣ Q2

WEST
♦ Q9
♥ J
♠ Q J 10 4 3
♣ 97
♦ A 6 4 3
♠ 9 8 7 5

EAST
♦ J
♥ A 5
♠ A 5
♣ 10 8 6 5 4 3
♦ 9 8 7 5

SOUTH
♦ A 10 5 4 3 2
♥ 7 6
♠ Q 2
♣ K J 10

The bidding: North East South West

1 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

South, declarer at four

spades, seemed to have an

impeccable holding in the

trump suit. But accurate

defense proved that ap-

pearances can be deceiving.

North-South's bidding was

impeccable. However, had

they been using some art of

transfer bid to allow North to

become declarer, four spades

would have been an unbeat-

able contract.

West led the queen of

hearts, which was ducked all

round the table. Even if the

defenders could take two

heart tricks, defensive

chances appeared grim un-

less East held the king of

clubs as well. However, since

there was no point in not

leading another heart, West

decided that he might as well

see what his prospects were

right away. His low heart

continuation was won by the

ace as declarer followed suit.

East read his partner's low

heart as being a suit prefer-

ence signal for clubs. He duly

shifted to the nine of clubs.

West won the ace, and paused

to take stock. The fate of the

contract hinged on his next

play.

From his partner's return

of the nine of clubs, West

deduced that East could not

hold the king. With that card,

he would either have first

cashed the king before conti-

nuing with a low club, or else

he would have shifted to a

low club rather than the nine.

Now, the trump suit was the

only place to develop the set-

ting trick. So, West reverted

to hearts, again leading low.

East used his jack of spades

to telling effect when he ruf-

fled. Declarer was forced to

overruff with the ace, and

now West had a sure trump

trick provided he carefully

covered the ten if South

elected to lead that card.

All it took to sink the con-

tract was some thoughtful

defense combined with an up-

percut.

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